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SUBJECT Commendation of KIM Ch'aek by MAO Tse-tung

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1. On approximately 1 December MAO Tse-tung sent a personal message of congratulations to KIM Ch'aek, commander of the North Korean front-line forces, for his continuing fight and his successful maintenance of troop organization in retreat.* KIM was formerly a staff officer in the Chinese Communist army.
2. In early December KIM ranked high in the estimate of North Korean government leaders who were returning to the Pyongyang area.

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 Comment. KIM retreated in late October with the main body of his remnant forces to the Kungang-san (128-07, 38-39) area, where he reorganized and concealed his forces during the UN push

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